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ABSTRACT

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 is specifically designed to help educationally deprived children. It was amended in 1966 to include the children of migratory agricultural workers. Today more than 235,000 migrant children receive educational and special supplementary services under Title I. This booklet is designed to answer some of the questions which are frequently asked about the participation of migrant children in the Title I migrant program. The most basic facts about the program and its administration are discussed in terms of eligibility of state education agencies for receiving funds, eligibility of children for participating in Title I programs, eligibility of projects for receiving funds, and interstate cooperation. For more detailed information about program operations in a specific locale, institutional staffs and other interested persons should contact their state or local education agencies. (Author/JH)

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Program for Migrant Children under ESEA Title I

1970

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
Elliot L. Richardson, Secretary

Office of Education
Terrel H. Bell, Acting Commissioner

PREFACE

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 is specifically designed to help educationally deprived children. It was amended in 1966 to include the children of migratory agricultural workers. Today more than 235,000 migrant children receive educational and special supplementary services under title I.

This booklet is designed to answer some of the questions which are frequently asked about the participation of migrant children in title I and, more specifically, the title I migrant program. The most basic facts about the program and its administration are included here. For more detailed information about program operations in a specific locale, institutional staffs and other interested persons should contact their State or local education agencies.

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PROGRAM FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN UNDER ESEA TITLE I

What does the program seek to do?

To identify and meet the specific educational needs of migrant children through remedial instruction; health, nutritional, and psychological services; cultural development; and prevocational training and counseling. Special attention in instructional programs is given to development of the language arts, including reading, speaking, and writing in both English and Spanish.

How long has the program been in effect?

Since November 1966, when title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act was amended by P.L. 89–750 to provide services for the children of migratory agricultural workers.

What Federal funds have been appropriated thus far?

In fiscal year 1967, $9,737,847; in 1968, $37,650,740; in 1969, $45,556,-074; and in 1970, $51,014,319.

How many States participate in the program? How many children?

Forty-six States served more than 235,-000 children in fiscal year 1970. About 85 percent of the participating children were in elementary school programs.

What is a sending State?

The State in which a migrant worker maintains a permanent residence for himself and/or his family for the major part of a year.

What is a receiving or host State?

The State in which a migrant worker maintains a temporary residence for himself and/or his family while he does farm work in that area.

ELIGIBILITY OF STATE EDUCATION AGENCIES

What is a State education agency (SEA)?

The agency primarily responsible for the supervision of public elementary and secondary schools in that State.

What is the role of the SEA in relation to the title I program for migrant children?

The SEA is directly responsible for the administration and operation of the State's title I migrant program.

What SEA's are eligible to receive title I migrant funds?

Any State where migrant workers live for any portion of the year receives an allocation of title I migrant funds. All 48 mainland States are included.

Are private organizations eligible to receive funds?

An SEA may contract with a private agency to provide services for the migrant children under the State's jurisdiction provided the private agency: (1) does not operate a private school; (2) is actively supervised by the SEA or local education agency through which the program is operated; and (3) agrees that the ultimate responsibility for its activities lies with the SEA.

ELIGIBILITY OF CHILDREN

Who is considered a migrant child?

A child who has moved with his family from one school district to another during the past year in order that a parent or other members of his immediate family may work in agriculture or related food-processing activities.

Who is an interstate migrant child?

A child who moves across State boundaries so that members of his family may find agricultural work. He returns with his family to the sending State at the end of the harvesting season.

Who is an intrastate migrant child?

A migrant child who moves across school district boundaries within a State as members of his family seek seasonal employment.

Are any other children eligible to participate in the title I migrant program?

Public Law 90–247, amending title I, states that for purposes of eligibility in a migrant program the child of a migratory agricultural worker can be defined as a migrant child for 5 years after his parents have settled in one place.

May any migrant child, regardless of race, national origin, or color, participate in title I migrant activities?

Yes. Local education agencies (LEA's) and SEA's must sign the Assurance of Compliance with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI prohibits discrimination in any activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Is there an age limit for children receiving title I migrant services?

Migrant grant funds may be used at any grade level through grade 12 or any age level below 21 years. Preschool projects and projects for dropout students are also authorized if they are part of an educational program.

May children attending a nonpublic school participate?

Yes, they may enroll in any title I migrant activity and receive the services provided by the LEA. However, a private school may not receive funds directly.

May migrant children participate in regular title I activities?

Yes. This is encouraged.

ELIGIBILITY OF PROJECTS

What is a migrant program?

An activity or set of activities proposed by the applicant State agency to meet the special educational needs of migrant children. It includes all local migrant education projects.

Who has the authority to approve State programs?

The U.S. Commissioner of Education.

Who has the authority to approve local projects?

The State education agency.

What is the fiscal year for title I migrant programs?

From July 1 through June 30. A 1970 amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act permits LEA's to use title I funds not expended in the current fiscal year through June 30 of the *following year.*

What types of projects should be proposed?

Projects must be designed to meet the special educational needs of migrant children, including the basic needs of food, clothing, medical care, and transportation to and from school. Interstate programs are also encouraged.

What are some ways in which title I migrant funds can be used to provide services for migrant children?

- Improving the educational program offered to migrant children through such techniques as bilingual instruction, remedial courses, and individualized instruction.
- Hiring the additional teachers, aides, counselors, and social workers needed to offer such a program.
- Providing recreational, cultural, and library services to the children.
- Training staff members to understand the needs and culture of the migrant child.
- Purchasing additional educational materials, including mobile classrooms to follow the children from camp to camp, bilingual course materials, art supplies, and industrial arts and prevocational equipment.

May an SEA approve the use of title I funds to continue a previously established project?

Yes, but the project must be reapproved annually. This is encouraged when a project has proven successful.

Are adults eligible to participate in title I migrant projects?

Title I projects must be designed specifically for children, but parents should be involved in projects as members of local advisory committees, teacher aides, and other helpers.

May several States develop a project together?

Yes. SEA's serving the same migrants as they move from State to State are encouraged to develop cooperative programs.

FUNDING

Who determines the maximum amount available to eligible SEA's?

The Commissioner of Education estimates the number of migrant children in each State from the best available data. To date these data have been provided by the Department of Labor. The estimates are used in computing the maximum amount to each SEA.

How are the funds distributed?

On the basis of a formula under which a State receives a maximum grant. The grant is computed by the sum of the estimated number of migrant children aged 5 to 17 residing, full or part time, in

the State, multiplied by the national or State average per pupil expenditure, whichever is higher.

What is the deadline for submitting applications?

Applications must be received in the Office of Education by June 15 if they are to be approved before the end of the fiscal year.

May projects be approved for more than 1 year?

No. Congress allocates title I funds for each fiscal year and new applications must be submitted annually.

May title I migrant funds be used in conjunction with other Federal grants to finance a migrant education project?

Yes.

INTERSTATE COOPERATION

Why does the Office of Education encourage interstate cooperation in the title I migrant program?

Because migrant children move so frequently from State to State, or even from school to school within a State, interstate cooperation is necessary in the planning of such programs to insure some degree of educational continuity.

What are some examples of this cooperation?

- Sending States sometimes have teachers experienced in working with migrant children go to receiving States to

discuss successful techniques and the needs of the migrant population.

- Several States have organized joint teacher training workshops for staff members working with migrant children.
- All States receiving title I migrant funds now participate in the Uniform Migrant Student Record Transfer System, which facilitates the keeping and transmittal of migrant children's health and educational records from State to State.

What is the Uniform Migrant Student Record Transfer System?

A computerized data system which will provide educational and health information on any migrant child to any mainland State within 24 hours. The system was developed in 1968 by a nine State advisory committee and is being implemented by the Arkansas State Department of Education under contract to the Office of Education.

How is the record transfer system financed?

The Commissioner of Education sets aside a certain portion of the funds allocated for migrant education. In fiscal year 1970, $650,000 was set aside; in 1969, $426,150.

When will it be fully operative?

By September 1971.

Who can get information from the data center?

Only State and local education agencies specifically involved with the title I migrant education program.

INFORMATION

How can one obtain more information about the title I migrant program?

By contacting the title I migrant coordinator in the State Department of Education in any State capital, or the Migrant Programs Branch, Division of Compensatory Education, U.S. Office of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202.